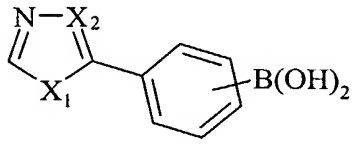
CLAIMS

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of the Formula I



(I)

wherein,

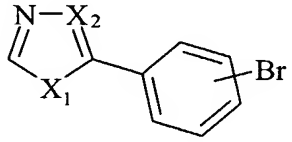
X_1 is selected from O, NR_1 or S; and

X_2 is selected from CH or N;

wherein R_1 is a nitrogen-protecting group,

which comprises :-

the sequential reaction of a compound of the Formula II



(II)

with,

(i) methyl- or an optionally substituted aryl- lithium; and then

(ii) n-butyl-, s-butyl-, t-butyl- or n-hexyl- lithium; and then

(iii) a borate ester.

2. The process according to claim 1 wherein X_1 is O.

3. The process according to claim 1 or 2 wherein X_2 is N.

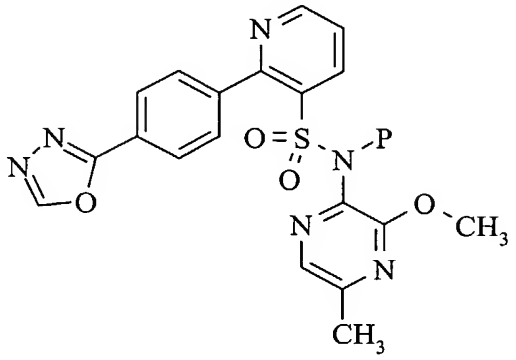
4. The process according to any one of claims 1-3 wherein said methyl- or an optionally substituted aryl- lithium is 4-methylphenyllithium or methyllithium.

5. The process according to any one of claims 1-4 wherein said n-butyl-, s-butyl-, t-butyl- or n-hexyl- lithium is n-hexyllithium or n-butyllithium.

6. The process according to any one of claims 1-5 wherein said borate ester is triisopropylborate.

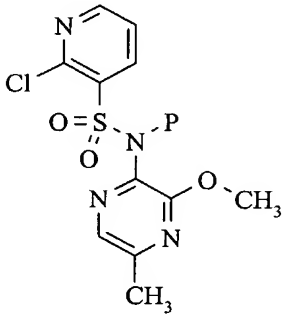
7. [4-(1,3,4-Oxadiazol-2-yl)phenyl]boronic acid prepared by the process as claimed in any one of claims 1-6.

8. A process for preparing compounds of Formula IV:



(IV)

which comprises coupling [4-(1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)phenyl]boronic acid with a compound of Formula III:



(III)

wherein P is a nitrogen-protecting group.

9. The process according to claim 8 which takes place in the presence of

(i) a source of palladium (0) selected from $PdCl_2$, $Pd(Ph_3P)_4$ or $Pd(OAc)_2$;

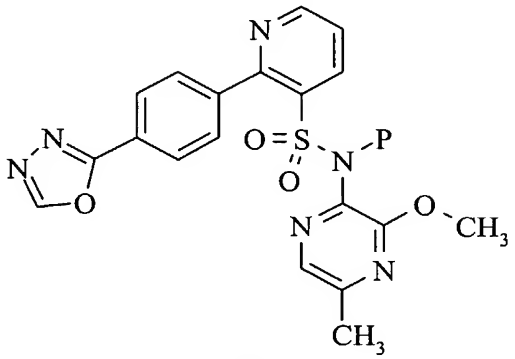
(ii) a suitable ligand selected from triphenylphosphine or 3,3',3"-phosphinidyne tris(benzenesulphonic acid) trisodium salt;

(iii) a base selected from triethylamine, benzyldimethylamine, N-methylmorpholine, N-methylpiperidine, triethanolamine, ethyldiethanolamine, diisopropylethylamine, potassium acetate, cesium fluoride or potassium fluoride.

10. The process according to claim 8 or claim 9wherein said [4-(1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl) phenyl]boronic acid is prepared according to the process as claimed in any one of claims 1-7.

11. The process according to any one of claims 8 - 10 wherein P is isobutoxycarbonyl.

12. A compound of Formula IV:



(IV)

wherein P is a nitrogen-protecting group.

13. A compound of Formula IV as claimed in claim 11 which is N-(isobutoxycarbonyl) N-(3-methoxy-5-methylpyrazin-2-yl)-2-(4-[1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl]phenyl) pyridine-3-sulphonamide.